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Carole Curtis'

Katmandu

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Katmandu

THE SEARCH FOR MAGIC PART 2

LISKA MITSEL-EMAN MUST UNDERGO A VISION QUEST TO CONFIRM HER FREE WARRIOR STATUS. ACCOMPANIED BY RIAL AND PYNDAN, SHE MUST JOURNEY TO FOUR VILLAGES FOR HER TRIBE'S SENESCHAL.

WELL, WE **SHOULD** BE CLOSE TO THE VILLE.

DO YOU HEAR THAT **SCREAMING?**

YES. SOUNDS LIKE IT'S OVER THE HILL.

I HOPE THEY HAVE THE **TIMNATH ROOT** WE NEED.

STORY: CAROLE CURTIS
PENCILS: SHAWNTAE HOWARD
INKS: ADRIAN KLEINBERGEN
LETTERS: FENDER

NO, WE CAN'T INTERFERE WITH TRIBAL LAW.
SHOULD WE HELP?
JUST AS WELL - A MAN SHOULD BE THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.

I THINK THE FIGHT IS OVER, ANYWAY--

WE ARE FROM THE **WHITE RIVER CLAN**, TO THE NORTH. WE COME TO OBTAIN TIMNATH ROOT FROM YOUR SENESCHAL.

WILL YOU **ANSWER**, OR ARE YOU *MUTE*?

I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM--

TWO **WARRIORS** - AND A **WOMAN**. WHAT IS HER STATUS? WHY BRING A **SLAVE**?

I AM A **FREE WARRIOR** OF THE WHITE RIVER. I AM **NOT** LIKE THE COWERING WOMEN IN YOUR VILLE.

EH--I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU NEED A **PEACEKEEPER** THERE EITHER.

FEH--WHAT HAVE YOU TO **TRADE**?

WE BROUGHT **SOAPSTONE** FOR A PIPEBOWL, **TURQUOISE**, AND BRIGHT **FEATHERS** FROM FAR AWAY.

HMF! NOT MUCH, BUT I'LL **TAKE** IT.

SLAVE! FETCH WATER AND A MEAL FOR OUR GUESTS!

WATER, HONORED MASTERS?

SHE'S WELL-TRAINED. WANT HER TONIGHT?

NO, WE HAVE TO GET TO THE NEXT VILLE...

IT'S A LONG TRIP BEFORE WE REACH HOME.

I COULD NOT **BREATHE** THERE. HOW CAN THEY ***LIVE*** WITH SUCH CRUELTY AND LAWLESSNESS?

LET'S ***RIDE!***

MOTHER, WHY WAS THEIR PEACEKEEPER A **GIANT**?

HE WAS FROM THE HOPLITE LANDS, LIKE YOUR **FATHER.**

AND **HESTA?**

YES, BUT LISKA DIDN'T *MEET* **HER** FOR MANY YEARS.

HMF. **HESTA** WOULD HAVE CUT OFF HIS

LOANZAH!

HERE, SON...

LISKA RODE WITH PYNDAN AND RIAL PAST THE FIRE SWAMP TO ANOTHER VILLAGE. THIS ONE PROVIDED A SHARP CONTRAST TO THE FIRST...

IT WAS DEATHLY QUIET. AND AT MID-DAY, NO ONE WAS ABOUT...

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

NOBODY'S OUT CLEANING OR COOKING...

SMOKE FROM SEVERAL TENT TOPS---

THAT TENT HAS IT'S FLAP OPEN. TRADE GOODS OUTSIDE, TOO.

I'LL WAGER THE CHIEF'S INSIDE.

WELL, LET'S GO IN...

SCRATCH SCRATCH

THERE'S SOMETHING *WRONG* IN THIS VILLAGE...

we can't stay here

i know a safe place to den up

YES, IT **IS** QUIET HERE IN OUR VILLE. NONE ***DARE*** MAKE TROUBLE.

AND NO **WOMAN** WOULD PRETEND TO BE A **WARRIOR** HERE.

GODDESS... ARE ***ALL*** MEN THIS WAY?? IS THERE ***NO ONE*** WHO WILL ACCEPT MY STATUS??

I HATE THIS! I HATE GETTING WET!

AT LEAST PYNDAN KNEW WHERE THIS **CAVE** WAS. STOP COMPLAINING!

I'M *TIRED* OF THESE CHIEFS POINTING-OUT HOW *RIDICULOUS* THE IDEA OF A WOMAN WARRIOR *IS*!

YOU HAVE TO PROVE ***YOUR*** STATUS, SO ***WE'RE*** IN A ***CAVE*** ***SOAKING WET!***

I WON WARRIOR STATUS BY KILLING OUR ENEMIES! AND I WON'T GO BACK TO BEING YOUR SLAVE!

SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP.

I'VE GOT A HEADACHE FROM THIS DAMN WEATHER.

I MISS SHAYGIN...

I MISS HER SO, ELISHAA...

IS SHE COLD AT NIGHT? HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT?

I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD FEEL THIS WAY!

I KNEW YOU WOULD, SISTER...

YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD SO MUCH LOVE TO GIVE.

WE WERE LUCKY THAT LISKA WON US. BUT SHE'S BLESSED TO HAVE YOU TO WIFE.

NOT SO... NEW LIFE IS STIRRING IN YOUR WOMB, BUT NOT IN MINE. I FEAR I WON'T BE ABLE TO GIVE HER SONS TO CARRY HER NAME.

SHAYGIN, THE GODDESS HAS BLESSED YOUR MARRIAGE ALREADY.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF TWO WOMEN UNITED AS YOU AND LISKA.

SURELY SHE WOULD NOT UNITE TWO KINDRED SOULS WITHOUT SOME HOPE OF CHILDREN.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO LEARN HER WILL.

OH, LISKA... PLEASE KNOW YOU ARE IN MY HEART. I WILL NOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL YOU RETURN.

-- SHAYGIN??

MOTHER. . .**WHY** DID ELISHAA SAY THAT ABOUT GAMMA LISKA AND SHAYGIN?

WELL, KEMAL--

WOMEN DON'T OFTEN LIVE TOGETHER LIKE LISKA AND SHAYGIN, BUT IT WAS RIGHT FOR **THEM.**

HOW, MOTHER?

LISKA HAD **SO** MUCH RESPONSIBILITY. . .THE LIVES OF SEVERAL PEOPLE RODE ON **HER** SHOULDERS.

SHE NEEDED **SHAYGIN'S** HELP TO BE THE WARRIOR EVERYONE LOOKED-TO.

I'M GLAD YOU DON'T BEAT US LIKE THAT **PEACEKEEPER!**

SOME PEOPLE FEEL IN CONTROL ONLY IF **OTHERS** ARE AFRAID.

THAT LEAVES NO ROOM FOR PEOPLE TO DO THEIR **BEST.**

SO WHAT HAPPENED **NEXT,** MOTHER?

YEAH!

THEY CAME TO THE **THIRD** VILLAGE ~

"AND THIS VILLAGE RECOGNIZED LISKA'S WARRIOR STATUS."

PYNDAN, LISKA, RIAL—IT'S GOOD TO SEE WARRIORS FROM MY BROTHER'S VILLE.

WE'LL TALK TOMORROW, BUT TONIGHT, I HAVE BED SLAVES TO HELP YOU RELAX FROM YOUR JOURNEY.

SHOULD WE OFFER HER A MALE OR FEMALE SLAVE..?

HMM... I DON'T KNOW...

I NEED MY LEATHERS CLEANED AND A GOOD MEAL. MY WIFE ISN'T WITH ME.

THESE THREE SHOULD DO.

THERE ARE TENTS FOR EACH OF YOU.

LISKA, CHOOSE FIRST.

THE LIGHTHAIR WITH THE EYE MARKING WILL DO.

KRESS, THIS WARRIOR WILL NEED YOUR SERVICES TONIGHT.

I'LL LEAD YOU TO OUR TENT, MISTRESS.

I THINK I'LL HAVE THE CURLYHAIR WITH THE BIG...EYES.

FINE. I WANTED THE DARK ONE.

HOW WAS YOUR DINNER, MASTER?

THE FOOD WAS GOOD, GIRL.

NOW LET'S SEE HOW YOU ARE IN THE SKINS...

HAVE I ANGERED YOU, MASTER?

YOU'RE SO FAR AWAY. IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU NEED?

=sigh= NO, YOU'RE ATTENTIONS ARE NICE, BUT MY MIND IS WITH SOMEONE ELSE...

OH, THAT'S *NICE*...

I'M GLAD, MISTRESS.

MISTRESS, I HEARD THAT YOU HAVE A WIFE. WHAT IS SHE LIKE?

MY SHAYGIN?

SHAYGIN IS MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE. SHE IS PLEASING TO THE EYE AND EAR. SHE'S QUIET BUT SHE **DOES** HAVE A **TEMPER.**

"***NO ONE*** CAN COOK LIKE SHAYGIN. WHEN I COME HOME AT NIGHT, **ALWAYS** A DELICIOUS MEAL IS WAITING. THEN SHE RUBS MY BACK AND GROOMS MY TAIL."

AND DOES SHE WARM YOUR FURS AT NIGHT?

OH, **YES!** AND THEN--

MISTRESS... I KNOW SOME GIRL GAMES...

GOOD DAWNBREAK, MY SISTERS.

GOOD DAWNBREAK.

SHALL WE WASH?

AND HOW WERE **YOUR** EVENINGS?

OOO--I'M **SORE.** MY WARRIOR WAS SHORT BUT ***MIGHTY.*** HE HAD A BIG APPETITE. I'LL WALK BOWLEGGED FOR A **WEEK.**

MY WHITE WARRIOR WAS **SWEET.** WE TALKED LONG INTO THE NIGHT.

WHAT WAS YOUR **FEMALE** WARRIOR LIKE, KRESS?

WELL~

YES! WHAT WAS PLEASING HER LIKE?

UH~

DID YOU PLAY "FEATHER FINGERS"?

YES, WE DID. AND "SUCKLE THE KITTEN." SHE HAS A WIFE AT HOME WHO IS A GOOD COOK, AND, I GATHER, VERY GOOD AT PLEASING HER HUSBAND.

A WOMAN... WITH A WIFE??

OH, MY!

WE NEED TO GET BACK BEFORE THEY WAKE. AMOROUS AS VISITING WARRIORS ARE AT NIGHT--

THEY'RE EVEN MORE SO IN THE MORNING!

MY WHITE-FURRED WARRIOR, YOU WILL NOT LEAVE MY TENT WITHOUT SATISFACTION!

HMM..

GOOD MORN, MY MISTRESS.

WERE YOUR DREAMS FULL OF GREAT HUNTS AND BEAUTIFUL WOMEN?

MMM... I DREAMED OF MY SHAYGIN.

SHE IS A LUCKY WOMAN, MISTRESS.

WILL YOU PASS THIS WAY AGAIN?

I DON'T KNOW, KRESS-KA. WHY DO YOU ASK?

BECAUSE ALTHOUGH I AM BUT A BEDSLAVE, MISTRESS, FROM THIS DAY ON, I WILL ALWAYS PICTURE MY WOMAN WARRIOR IN MY TENT.

WELL! HOW WAS **YOUR** EVENING?

VERY NICE.

YAWN AFTER **MY** NIGHT, I COULD SLEEP 'TIL NEXT **DAWN.**

HOW ABOUT **YOU,** LISKA?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT **ME.**

I CAN RIDE FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS **STRAIGHT.**

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

Kalmandu

Changes
part 3

WISSA! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN SO LONG! WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?

YESTERDAY, AND I'M *SO* GLAD TO BE BACK.

STORY, PENCILS, AND LETTERING:
TED VOLLMER
INKING: JONAS SILVER

BUT YOU AND I CAN TALK LATER. RIAL SAYS THERE'S SOMEONE HERE THAT NEEDS MY HELP?

YES...

...WE CAME ACROSS THIS LONGTOOTH YESTERDAY.

I'M SURPRISED HE'S STILL ALIVE.

LET'S HOPE HE *STAYS* THAT WAY.

DEAR *GODDESS!*

PYNDAN, YOU AND RIAL PUT THE SHELTER UP *OVER* US.

TASLIN, I NEED THE RED BAG FROM MY PACK.

I'LL NEED A SMALL FIRE INSIDE ALSO.

YES, WISSA.

I CAN FEEL HIS HEART *THROUGH* THE KNIFE.

IT *CAN'T* HAVE PIERCED THE HEART OR HE *WOULD* BE DEAD. THIS WON'T BE EASY. IT'S LODGED IN HIS RIBS.

TASLIN, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP. I CAN'T DO THIS BY MYSELF.

HER TOUCH ON HIS HAND IS LIKE AN ELECTRIC SHOCK.

PLEASE?

...OKAY, I'LL HELP.

OLD FEARS COME FLOODING BACK TO THE YOUNG WARRIOR. FEARS THAT, FOR NOW, MUST BE CHOKED BACK.

I STILL NEED THE FIRE IN HERE.

AS TASLIN LEAVES TO GET WOOD FOR THE FIRE, HIS THOUGHTS TURN TO WISSA, AND HOW THINGS CAME TO BE...

WISSA, HIS BROTHER'S WIFE.

HIS *DEAD* BROTHER'S WIFE.

NOW *HIS* BETROTHED, BY HIS TRIBE'S TRADITION.

MARRIAGE ISN'T WHAT SCARES HIM. HIS BROTHER TOLD STORIES OF WISSA'S 'APPETITES'. STORIES, WHEN MIXED WITH THE HEALER'S MYSTERY, TASLIN BELIEVES.

WISSA CAREFULLY EXPLAINS TO THE LONGTOOTH THAT SHE IS GOING TO TRY AND HELP HIM.

THERE IS NO REPLY.

SHE CAN ONLY HOPE HE UNDERSTOOD.

A STRONG ANESTHETIC IS FUNNELED SLOWLY INTO HIS MOUTH.

UPON TASLIN'S RETURN...

AS IT TAKES EFFECT, WISSA MIXES A POULTICE FROM HERBS AND SAP.

I'M READY TO PULL THE KNIFE OUT.

THIS IS WHERE I NEED YOUR HELP. I NEED YOU TO PUT YOUR HANDS ON HIS BACK, ONE ON EACH SIDE OF THE KNIFE.

YOU NEED TO KEEP HIS BODY FROM PULLING UP WHEN I PULL THE KNIFE OUT. IF THE KNIFE SLIPS OUT OF MY HAND, DON'T PUSH DOWN.

WISSA GRIPS THE HILT...

...AND FEELS FOR JUST THE RIGHT PLACE.

QUIET WORDS WHISPERED IN AN ANCIENT TOUNGE PRECEDE A SHARP PULL...

GODDESS!

THE POULTICE IS IS QUICKLY APPLIED...

...AND A TAUT BANDAGE WRAPPED AROUND THE BARREL-SIZED TORSO.

A SMILE CAN'T HELP BUT GRACE WISSA'S FACE AS SHE REALIZES HER PATIENT HAS A BETTER CHANCE THAN SHE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT.

THERE! FINISHED!

THAT WOUND WILL BE A LONG TIME HEALING, WISSA.

YES, BUT, AT LEAST NOW HE *HAS* TIME.

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE GODDESS FINDS YET ANOTHER WAY TO TORMENT PYNDAN.....

SHELLEY PLEGER is a new artist you'll see in KATMANDU and SHANDA. Her website is http://www.rio.com/~pleger/CDD. "Shelley, Pyndan's got an awful lot of patience. But I'm Glad they're not carrying weapons!"

EXTINCTIONERS

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Check the MAY and JUNE PREVIEWS to Order!